

SALEM M.E. CHURCH
Fairlee, Maryland
(1853)

K-428

Salem Methodist Church in Fairlee is a brick Greek Revival building with its entrance in the front gable. Simple in its detailing the building has plain brick corner pilasters, an overhanging cornice and return and a tiny wooden belfry.

The frame structure was constructed by the Salem Methodist Episcopal Church in 1853; in 1868 it was moved to its present location. The building was later covered with brick and an entry added. Its belfry was erected in the early 1900's.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Salem M.E. Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side of Old Route 20

CITY, TOWN

(Chestertown Fairlee Road)

JUL
21/94

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fairlee

VICINITY OF

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY
Kent**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

☐ DISTRICT☐ PUBLIC☒ OCCUPIED☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ BUILDING(S)☒ PRIVATE☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ STRUCTURE☐ BOTH☐ WORK IN PROGRESS☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ RELIGIOUS☐ OBJECT☐ IN PROCESS☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ BEING CONSIDERED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ NO☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**NAME Salem Methodist Church
c/o Rev. C.A. Lewis

Telephone #: 301-778-3498

STREET & NUMBER

Fairlee

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown,

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Court House

Liber #: WHG 65

Folio #: 257

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-428

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT ☐ DETERIORATED
☒ GOOD ☐ RUINS
☐ FAIR ☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☒ MOVED DATE 1868

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Salem M.E. Church is a Greek Revival building located in the town of Fairlee on the north side of Old Route 20. It is on an urban lot surrounded by houses.

The one-story church exterior has plain brick walls. It is three bays wide and four bays long, with the major entry into the front gable. The roof is of moderate pitch and finished with a cornice with a Greek Cove and square crown molding. Its return is met by a simple brick pilaster which emphasizes the corners of the facade, making an allusion to a temple front. An enclosed entry porch was added to the main facade; it has a gable roof and German shiplap siding. The principal entry doors in the center of the front facade are flanked by a pair of one over one sash windows set in plain frames with plain wooden sills and lintels. Above the main entry is a small belfry with a hipped roof surmounted by a cross. At the rear of the building is a brick addition with a gable roof. The same type of window is used in the four side bays. All are filled with colored glass with a lancet arch motif.

The brick walls are dark orange in color and laid in a running bond pattern with tan colored, untooled mortar joints. They are actually a veneer over the church's original weatherboarding.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1853 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Salem Methodist Episcopal Church was constructed in 1853. A frame structure it probably resembled the original Union M.E. Church (K-410) which once stood in the Methodist cemetery at Christ Church I.U. (K-133.) The building is greatly altered from its original condition but still shows the influence of the Greek Revival on church architecture.

A copy of a history of Salem Methodist Church is attached.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Survey Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Planning Commission

DATE

778-4600, ext.67

STREET & NUMBER

Court House

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

The first Salem Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1853, on a two acre parcel of land, adjoining the premises of Richard Smith (now owned by John Dierker) on Route 298.

The land was obtained from John Lusby and his wife Sarah Elizabeth for the sum of thirty dollars. It was deeded to the trustees of the church, namely Thomas Stevens, John Greenwood of Wm. Nathaniel Wiley Thomas Toulson, Isaac S. Rogers, John H. Bowman and Hamilton B. Warren.

It was deeded in trust that they should erect and build or cause to be erected or built a house or place of worship for use by the members of Salem Methodist Episcopal Church and in further trust and confidence that they should at all times hereafter and forever, permit such ministers and preachers belonging to the said church, as shall from time to time, be duly authorized by the General Conference of ministers and preachers, of the Said Methodist Episcopal Church, or by the Annual Conference authorized by the Said General Conference, to preach and expound God's Holy Word therein.

A clapboard building was erected on this piece of land.

Nearly fifteen years later on April 6, 1868, William Bowman deeded a plot of land located at the fork of road on the N. E. side of Belair (now Fairlee) to the trustees of Salem Methodist Episcopal Church.

It began opposite or nearly opposite the stone house of Wm. Bowman (now owned and occupied by Oscar Leaverton). It was deeded in trust that the Said trustees would build or cause to be built a place of worship.

The first church, on the Lusby lot was moved and placed on this piece of land. Some remodelling was done and an entry was attached to the front of the church. Few churches of this period possessed such an entry. It is believed that the stained glass around the doors is the original glass.

There are evidences of this building having a gallery and a belfry, which were general characteristics of this period of church architecture. A brick exterior was placed around the structure.

The name of this church has been changed at least three times, according to the reorganization of Methodism. It was first called Salem Methodist Episcopal Church. Later the word Episcopal was dropped. At present it is called Salem United Methodist Church.

In November 1868, there was recorded a deed for a parcel of land issued by William Bowman to John Greenwood of Wm., William C. Crow, Hamilton B. Warren, William Morris, James Kenard and Isaac Rogers, trustees of Salem Methodist Episcopal Church. It began at a cedar tree on the North side of the road opposite the residence of John Sweaser (now owned and occupied by John W. Hyland) and ran N $84\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ E. 8 $32/100$ perches, then S 14° and W $5\frac{7}{10}$ perches to the Said road opposite, thence with the road to the beginning.

It was deeded in trust that the Said premises should be used, kept maintained and disposed as a place of Divine Worship, for use of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States.

On this land a parsonage was built. It is still property of Salem United Methodist Church and is rented by Franklin Bigelow Jr.

In April of 1949 a small clapboard building; twenty by forty feet was purchased, moved to the land adjoining the church, and attached to the church. It served as an education building, a social hall and a kitchen.

The property of the late Walter B. Barnes and his wife Zadie Lee Barnes was deeded by their son George Lee Barnes, to the trustees of Salem Methodist Church in 1960³. This property was located at the corner of Route 298 and Junction 298. On it a new parsonage was built in 1965 and is at present occupied by Reverend John Van Tine and his wife. 1965

The need arose for larger education facilities so the old attached building was removed. A new brick expansion including seven classrooms in the basement and a social hall, a kitchen, a supply room and two lavatories on the main floor, was erected in 1968.

Most of the work on the new parsonage and the brick expansion was done by members of the church and its faithful friends.

The interior of the Chapel has been redecorated. Panelling has been placed around the sides, pews have been refinished and new electrical fixtures installed in recent years. This also was done by members and friends of the church. The stained glass windows have been repaired and replaced this year.

Parking on the highway in front of the church was fast becoming hazardous so the men of the church with the help of its friends, planned a parking lot on the land at the rear of the church building. This area proved inadequate so in October 1968, they purchased a plot of land from Mrs. Florence Christopher and her daughter, Mrs. Ellen Ann Loller. This added to that belonging to the church was made into a very desirable parking area with two entrances.

Various clubs on all age and interest levels have been formed as time progressed. The members of each contributed liberally, physically and financially, to the church and its many projects.

Little has been recorded of the various gifts to the church but we do know it has been heavily endowed. We are very grateful for such wonderful members and friends.

The help of all these people has enabled Salem Church to progress in its service to the community of Fairlee during its first one hundred and nineteen years.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

K-428



5762 1 SW
(HANESVILLE)

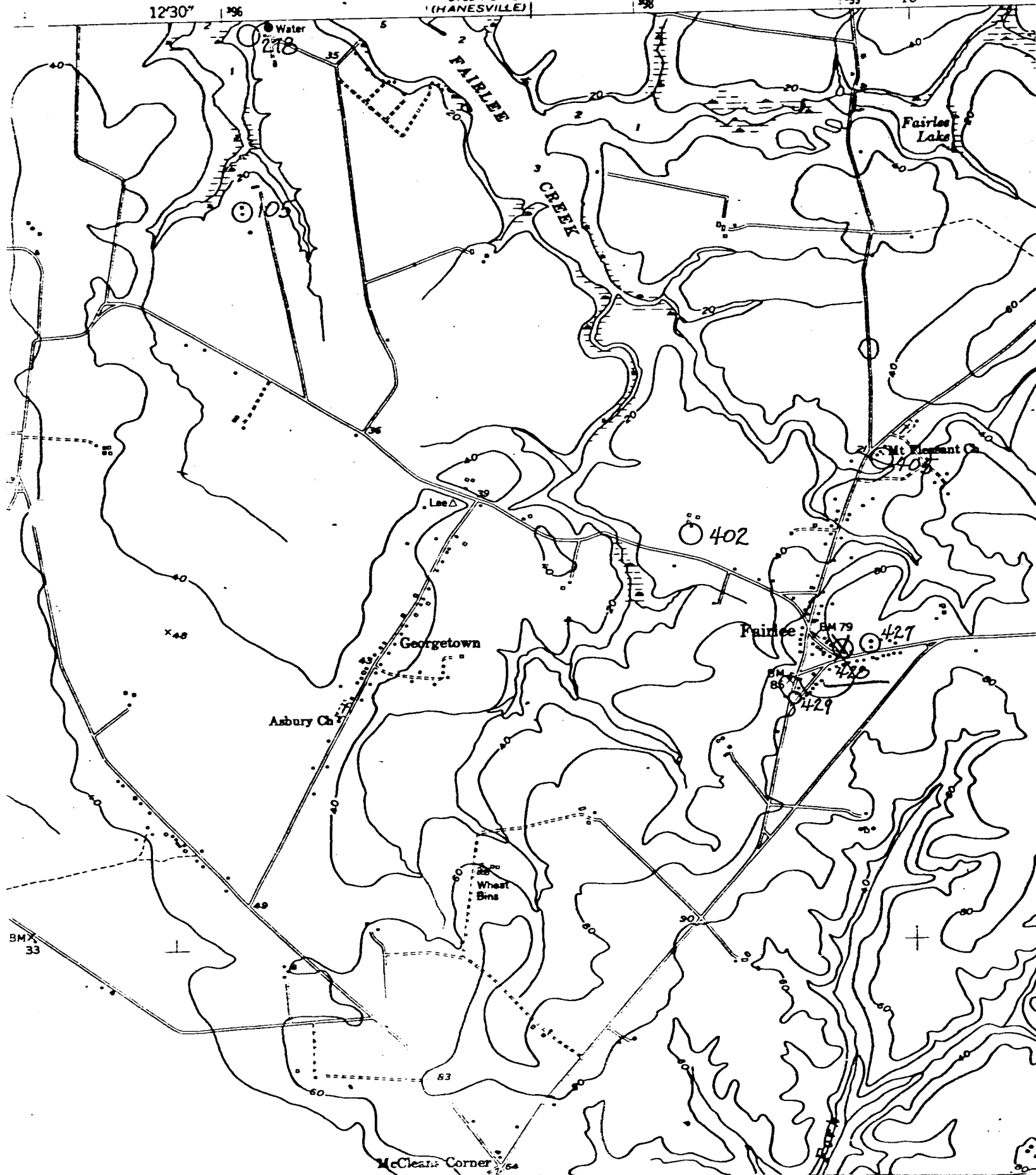
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K-428

Salem M.E. Church

View to Northeast

Fairlee

Kent County

M.L. Fritz

7/1980

PRINTED BY

J. Tyler Campbell

CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

JUN 11 1980